

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1470

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0186

PANAMA PLEASE PASS TO MR. WALKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (WALKER, THOMAS C.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF VFW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
WALKER:

A. CARACAS CHAPTER OF THE U.S. NAVY LEAGUE CORDIALLY INVITES
YOU TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT THE LEAGUE'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY,
JANUARY 16. LEAGUE, WHICH IS THE ONLY ACTIVE U.S. VETERANS ORGANI-
ZATION IN VENEZUELA, CONSISTS PRINCIPALLY OF INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF
AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN CARACAS. LEAGUE'S EXECUTIVE COM-
MITTEE HAS RESCHEDULED JANUARY LUNCHEON TO COINCIDE WITH THE DATES
FOR YOUR VISIT HERE.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF YOU WOULD AD-
DRESS LUNCHEON GROUP FOR ABOUT 15-20 MINUTES AND LEAVE 15-20 MINUTES
MORE OPEN FOR QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION. IN LIGHT OF STRONG
INTEREST IN ANGOLA SITUATION, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUGGESTS AS A
POSSIBLE TOPIC, "A VFW VIEW OF U.S. STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE
SOUTH ATLANTIC." IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SUBJECT, YOU MIGHT WISH
TO ADDRESS THE BROADER ISSUE OF THE RISE IN SOVIET NAVAL POWER.

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C. TO PROVIDE TIME FOR PUBLICIZING THIS SPECIAL LUNCHEON IN

YOUR HONOR, NAVY LEAGUE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK AND, IF POSSIBLE, MAIN TOPIC OF YOUR REMARKS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE OF NAVY LEAGUE INVITATION.
END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. FOR EMBASSY PANAMA ONLY: BECAUSE OF STRONG SENSITIVITY HERE OVER CANAL TREATY ISSUE, EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH WALKER TO GIVE SPEECH ON PANAMA CANAL. WE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF EMBASSY PANAMA WOULD, IF NECESSARY, DISCOURAGE WALKER FROM RESPONDING TO NAVY LEAGUE INVITATION BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD LIKE THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS TO BE THE TOPIC OF HIS REMARKS.
SHLAUDEMAM

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